

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Presented by Chris McGovern, C.E.O., Environmental Remediation Contractor
May 14, 2025

1. Opening

Good afternoon. My name is Chris McGovern and I'm the CEO of Environmental Remediation Contractor, an Ohio-based firm specializing in ecological restoration and emergency environmental response. Over the last two years, we've successfully delivered more than \$10 million in ecological projects—removing dams, clearing & cleaning rivers, and restoring wetlands vital to the health of Ohio's water systems.

2. H2Ohio Supports Real Jobs

Environmental restoration isn't abstract—it's construction, and it is employment. Our company has 38 highly-skilled construction workers—equipment operators, laborers, and CDL drivers—working directly on H2Ohio-funded projects. Add to that, dozens of supporting vendors—fuel providers, trucking companies, stone quarries, nurseries, and more. When funding is cut, these workers don't just wait—they lose paychecks.

3. Clean Water, Flood Protection, and Resilience

Every dam we remove, every wetland we restore—it all adds up to cleaner water and less flooding, natural animal habitat, and healthy fish harvesting. These projects directly reduce nutrient runoff, slow stormwater, and protect farmland and infrastructure. It's how we keep toxins out of Lake Erie and our drinking water safe in our small towns across the state of Ohio.

4. Closing

I strongly urge this committee to reject the 44% cut to H2Ohio funding. These dollars fuel real progress—jobs, clean water, and environmental protection. Cutting them now undercuts momentum and sends skilled workers to the sidelines. Let us continue building the infrastructure that protects Ohio's future.

Thanks for listening.

Chris McGovern
C.E.O.